

~~SECRET~~/RYBAT

Routing Form

Doc. No.:

HGGA-1026

Date:

MAY 9 1954

Indicate title of person to take action and that of the originator. Place comments thereunder by numbered paragraphs. Initial in center of page and draw a line across the page and forward. Each recipient is to repeat above procedure until action completed and ready for filing. This cover-sheet must be retained with enclosure.

TO:

FROM

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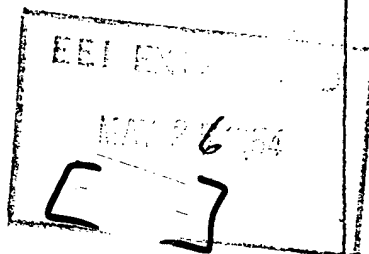
extract info for proper garrisons.

Gerry

File: Guardia de Honor.

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
RELEASE AS SANITIZED

2003



~~SECRET~~/RYBAT

EW file

Recent Military Movement

Lincoln

VIA: **COURIER**
(SPECIFY AIR OR SEA POUCH)

DISPATCH NO. **H3GA-1026**

PBSUCCESS/RYBAT/SECRET
CLASSIFICATION

TO : **LINCOLN**

DATE **MAY 7 1954**

FROM : **Chief of Station, Guatemala** []

SUBJECT: GENERAL— **Operational - EEI**

SPECIFIC— **Movement of Guatemalan Army Personnel and Equipment**

REF: **GUAT-425** ✓
LINC-2256 ✓
GUAT-473
GUAT-485 ✓
GUAT-492 ✓

1. Attachment #1 is a report from **ESCOBILLA** concerning movement of Guatemalan Army personnel and equipment from the Guardia de Honor to Puerto Barrios on or about 15 April 1954 (GUAT-425). BC
DE

2. Colonel A. E. **MCCORMICK**, who had recently returned from Puerto Barrios and Zacapa was asked to evaluate this information. He stated that it was probably false (reported in GUAT-425, paragraph 2). Checks were also initiated through other sources to confirm or refute the report. CF

3. **ESSENCE**' report is attachment # 2 which he wishes forwarded to **PANCHO**.

4. On 1 May **ESPERANCE** learned from his Railroad contact that no tanks or troops had left by rail (GUAT-485).

5. **ESTIMATOR** visited the Military Base in Puerto Barrios on 2 May and reported on his return that only two or three soldiers were seen standing around (GUAT-473).

6. On 5 May **ESPERANCE-5** advised that 4 tanks left Guatemala City for Zacapa (via road on trailers) during the last week of April (GUAT-492).

7. **ESPERANCE** has been alerted to obtain all possible data on military strength and equipment on his forthcoming visit to Gualan in the Zacapa region. A report on his observations will be forwarded by subsequent cable or dispatch.

8. Reporting on military movements is not being overlooked and every effort is being made to check and forward the information as it becomes available.

[**Robert B. Kilgus**]

Attachments: 2

RBR/rbr

Distr:

2-LINC w/att, 2-Wash w/o att

PBSUCCESS/RYBAT/SECRET
CLASSIFICATION

23 April 1954

1. The following information concerns one of the two battalions mentioned in the EMO report of the 22nd as having been dispatched for the Guatemala-Honduras frontier. This information was gathered by CASPER from

2. One company left the 15th of April for Puerto Barrios. The personnel were given all the field arms (armas de campaña), litchons, 4 armoured trucks (camiones blindados), with 4 ametralladoras, calibre .37 in the camiones, three cañones calibre .75, 4 tanks, two cañones anti-tanques, two piezas anti-aereas (these piezas are from the segundo regimiento de armas pesadas), fusiles checos, 4 ametralladoras calibre .30.

3. The company which left is the 2a. Compañía. -

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4. Talking with several Sargentos, the Sub-Jefe of the Guardia de Honor said:

"The situation is very bad, the 2a. Compañía has left now for Puerto Barrios to defend it against the attack which is coming from outside. What do you all think in the event that we have to fight?"

The answer he got from the sargents was, they'd do whatever they were told.

"Well, I think," the sub-Jefe continued, "that we shall have to see what goes on, and then take the

Lt. Col. JOSE SANTI EARCIA CORZA

att # 1

side of those that are the strongest a la mera
hora. And if you find yourselves in a difficult
situation at any time, go on over to the winning
side."

The Sub-Jefe continued, telling the Sargentos
that he and many others in the army were "muy senti-
do" for that the "desgraciado de Torriello" had gone
to Caracas to say, and that they were now in a
"situación muy comprometida".

(The Segundo Jefe is in disagreement with the Primer
Jefe, and is saying this to many of the Sargentos.)

There are many soldiers who intend to abandon the
Guardia de Honor as soon as it is attacked, for they say
that they don't want to be bombarded, and they don't see
along Communist lines. Furthermore, they remember the
20th of October, when all those who didn't leave, died
inside.

Also, the Sub-Jefe has told them that he is in accord
with the communions who are coming from outside, because
they are good militares, and have been unjustly desterrados -
that it is these good militares who will arrive from the
outside with troops. He has said that he knows almost all
those who are working in the opposition and that many of
them were his amigos de estudio y de armas.

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Antigua 5. From Antigua, Guatemala, the Guardia Civil Abraham
Hernández, talking with a group of campesinos, said that
they (the campesinos) shouldn't mix themselves up with any-
thing connected with the Ley Agraria, because war is
approaching, and they shouldn't be fools - all the agraristas
will have to be killed, - and the Segundo Jefe is disposed
to hand over the arms, if it weren't for the Primer Jefe.

6. The above fears, etc., are the results of the group's
rumor campaign to stir up suspicion, fear, etc.

C-3
A.

30 April 1954

1. The following information is for PANCHO:

LA AURORA
G. DE HONOR.

No company has left the Base Militar de la Aurora. The complaint is that many people are deserting them. That four Brigadas (Sargentos Primeros) have deserted, and at the present time there is only one Brigadax, who is the one with the tank unit (they have six tanks, of which one is in bad condition). The talk continues at the Base that soon there will be war because of Communism. The opinion~~en~~ of the sargentos here is the same as in the Guardia de Honor - "that if worse comes to worse, they will escape through the barrancos".

On the 10th of April there arrived at the Guardia de Honor 50 men from Momostenango, and 25 men from Quiché. They were there one day, and on the 11th they left for no one knows where.

A. "

Source: Essence

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